THE Federal Library and Information Center Network presents

The FEDLINK Spring Exposition:

Libraries in the Sky: On Ramp to the Cloud

May 9–10, 2017 ~ 9:00am - 4:00pm
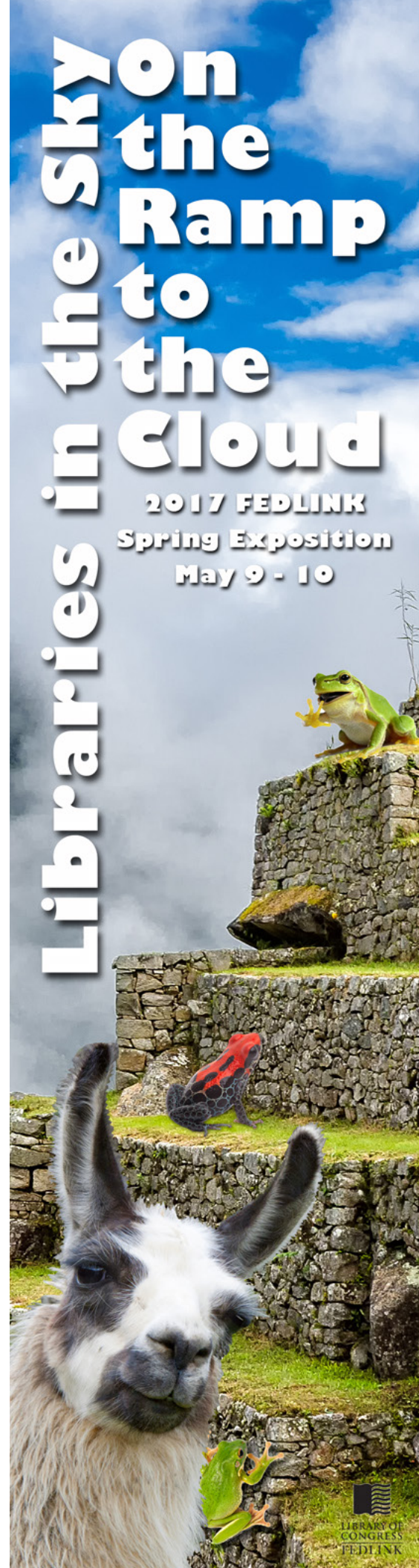**Library of Congress ~ Washington, DC**

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Twenty years after software engineers first used the phrase "cloud computing" to describe a network of computers that store and process information, "the cloud" has become a buzzword that is both ubiquitous and misunderstood. It is a term that people generally understand to mean an offsite storage system for important business or personal files, but confusion remains over exactly how it works and how secure it is. As a result, many people end up keeping their files stored on the systems that they have always used.

The U.S. government is also heavily reliant on the data systems it has been using for decades to store and access the immense amount of information produced by scores of agencies each year. Though the government is interested in the benefits of cloud computing, its adoption of such technology has been slow. Existing efforts to digitize and leverage the government's holdings have been inconsistent, time consuming, and costly.

FedRAMP, the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program, aims to ameliorate these issues by standardizing, assessing, authorizing, and monitoring cloud products and services. FedRAMP follows a "do once, use many times" framework so that government agencies create and maintain systems in an easier, and cheaper, fashion. With such a close collaboration between federal agencies, cybersecurity and cloud experts, and private industry, FedRAMP now saves an estimated 30 to 40 percent of government costs and reduces the time and staff needed to conduct individual agency security assessments of current and proposed data solutions.

Federal libraries and information centers, too, are deeply dependent on traditional technological systems yet need a cost-effective solution to improve user access, data mining, and storage options. The increased presence of digitization and content-sharing services has focused these efforts on enabling the federal

information community to accelerate its adoption of secure cloud solutions, increase its confidence in security assessments, and achieve consistent security authorizations. FedRAMP is one of the solutions that can turn planning into accomplishment.

   To respond to FEDLINK members in their desire for innovative digital systems, and the history of federal libraries and information centers as homes of innovation, The FEDLINK Spring Expo will focus on how FedRAMP and other solutions can create widely accessible knowledge repositories for their agencies and constituent.

   The spring forum will open with remarks from Jane Sanchez, the Law Librarian of Congress. She and Meg Tulloch, the executive director of FEDLINK, will present the annual awards for federal libraries, librarians, and library technicians.

   Following the awards presentation, panel discussions will focus on the need for greater discovery and openness within federal library collections, and how new technologies can leverage the traditional work of the information community. Panelists will include representatives from the U.S. Copyright Office, FEDLINK's Information Technology Working Group, and others in the federal sphere who have these initiatives underway.

   The second day of the Expo will feature Dr. Marshall Breeding, the creator of the Library Technology Guides and libraries.org. Breeding is an expert on network technologies and library automation, and aims to assist libraries and information centers as they consider new systems, such as FedRAMP. Used by more than 50,000 professionals, his guides provide comprehensive and objective information concerning a wide variety of technology products and services used by libraries to modernize their systems.

   Technological change will continue to be an ever-present and driving force for information. Integrated library systems, cloud solutions and other tools represent the future direction of digital systems. As more government organizations move to the cloud via FedRAMP, the federal government will be more nimble, effective, and responsive to the mission of its agencies and to the American public.